

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 USIA-06 /018 R

DRAFTED BY CU/AF:JANDEREGG:MLL
APPROVED BY CU/AF:JRELPH
AF/W - ELOLLIS (SUBS)
CU - JRICHARDSON, JR.

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R 182338Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: FESTAC LETTER FROM FINGESI

REF: LAGOS 8923

1. IN DISCUSSING OUR RESPONSE TO FINGESI LETTER WITH
AMBASSADOR EASUM, HE SUGGESTED DESIRABLE FOR EMBASSY TO
LOOK OVER PROPOSED DRAFT, (PARA 2). WE NOTE THAT
FINGESI'S LETTER IS NOT AN INVITATION TO THE USG TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTIVAL, NOR IS IT AN EXPLICIT
REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM THE USG. OUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN
DRAFTED WITH THOSE POINTS IN MIND. WE WOULD APPRECIATE
POST COMMENTS BEFORE WE PUT LETTER INTO FINAL FORM FOR
MR. RICHARDSON'S SIGNATURE.

2. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I WISH TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND
LETTER OF GREETINGS, DATED JUNE 21, 1976. I WOULD ALSO
LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING
THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FESTIVAL.

AS I EXPRESSED TO YOU IN MAY IN WASHINGTON, THE UNITED
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STATES GOVERNMENT WISHES TO SEE A STRONG AND BROAD AMERICAN

PARTICIPATION IN THE SECOND WORLD BLACK AND AFRICAN FESTIVAL OF ARTS AND CULTURE. IT WILL BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE WORLD THE VITALITY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE AMERICAN BLACK COMMUNITY. TO THAT END, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS ALREADY GIVEN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN FESTIVAL COMMITTEE TO ASSIST IT IN ITS IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES. THE COMMITTEE HAS ALSO RECEIVED A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS.

I HOPE THAT WITH THIS DEMONSTRATION OF SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ABLE TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE UNITED STATES TO FINANCE THE TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED EXPENSES OF THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE LAGOS FESTIVAL. AMERICAN REPRESENTATION WILL BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF IT REFLECTS THE MORAL AND FINANCIAL COMMITMENT OF A BROAD SPECTRUM OF AMERICAN SOCIETY.

PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. JOHN RICHARDSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, INVITATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE205791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JANDEREGG:MLL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760317-1120
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760841/aaaabjft.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 LAGOS 8923
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FESTAC LETTER FROM FINGESI
TAGS: SCUL, NI, US, FESTAC
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006